

Introduced by Senator AshburnFebruary 22, 2005

An act to amend Section 21000 of the Public Resources Code, relating to environmental quality.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 993, as introduced, Ashburn. CEQA: legislative findings and declarations.

The existing California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires a lead agency, as defined, to prepare, or cause to be prepared by contract, and certify the completion of, an environmental impact report on a project, as defined, that it proposes to carry out or approve that may have a significant effect on the environment, or to adopt a negative declaration if it finds that the project will not have that effect. CEQA makes various legislative findings and declarations related to the policies underlying the act.

This bill would make technical, nonsubstantive changes in those provisions legislative findings and declarations.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 21000 of the Public Resources Code is
- 2 amended to read:
- 3 21000. The Legislature finds and declares as follows:
- 4 (a) The maintenance of a quality environment for the people of
- 5 ~~this state~~ *California* now and in the future is a matter of statewide
- 6 concern.

1 (b) It is necessary to provide a high-quality environment that
2 at all times is healthful and pleasing to the senses and intellect of
3 man.

4 (c) ~~There is a need~~*It is necessary* to understand the
5 relationship between the maintenance of high-quality ecological
6 systems and the general welfare of the people of the state,
7 including their enjoyment of the natural resources of the state.

8 (d) The capacity of the environment is limited, and it is the
9 intent of the Legislature that the government of the state take
10 immediate steps to identify any critical thresholds for the health
11 and safety of the people of the state and take all coordinated
12 actions necessary to prevent such thresholds being reached.

13 (e) Every citizen has a responsibility to contribute to the
14 preservation and enhancement of the environment.

15 (f) The interrelationship of policies and practices in the
16 management of natural resources and waste disposal requires
17 systematic and concerted efforts by public and private interests to
18 enhance environmental quality and to control environmental
19 pollution.

20 (g) It is the intent of the Legislature that all agencies of the
21 state government which regulate activities of private individuals,
22 corporations, and public agencies which are found to affect the
23 quality of the environment, shall regulate such activities so that
24 major consideration is given to preventing environmental
25 damage, while providing a decent home and satisfying living
26 environment for every Californian.